

2007 Survey of Indiana School Counselors Highlights

Impact of Current Role as a School Counselor

- Given more time to work with students: Indiana school counselors report they could dramatically increase the level of impact they have on student achievement, student retention, conflict resolution and preparation for success at the next level of education.
- 88 % of counselors are pleased with services, resources and support provided by the Indiana Department of Education.
- 80% of Indiana school counselors feel supported by their local administration.
- 88% of Indiana school counselors feel they are an effective school counselor.
- 91% agree that they could be even more effective with a smaller caseload of students.
- 81% of Indiana school counselors say they do not have enough time to meet with the students with whom they are responsible.

Counselor-Student Ratios

- The student caseloads of most Indiana school counselors are very high – running somewhere between 200 to 600 students per counselor.
- The latest Indiana statewide average is 560 students per counselor – making Indiana the state with the 10th highest number of students per counselor. (see <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/files/Ratios04-05.pdf>)
- The American and Indiana School Counselor Associations recommend a student to counseling ratio of no more than 250 students to one counselor.
- Because of the high student to counselor ratios, most Indiana school counselors report they only get to spend less than 50% of their time with students.
- The number of Indiana school counselors stayed about the same last year, but almost half of the state's counselors (45%) said their student caseload increased. Counselors reported that the number of non-counseling responsibilities, those that do not involve students and do not relate to school counseling, also increased by 46% last year.
- And, 36% of counselors said their opportunities to work one-on-one with students decreased last year.

Counselor Responsibilities

- School counselors, like all school faculty, have additional tasks. But school counselors are given many non-counseling duties that take up a significant amount of their time.
- Close to half of all Indiana school counselors are responsible for ISTEP+ testing coordination, master scheduling, lunch duty, and facilitating special education conferences.